



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
JULIUS P.A. DEWALD, PT, PHD

Our NUPTHMS community of students (DPT, DPT/PhD, DPT/MPH, PhD), faculty, researchers, residents, fellows, and staff have so much to be thankful for as we approach the end of 2024 and begin looking

forward to our 2027 centennial celebration as the oldest continuously accredited physical therapy school in the U.S.

NUPTHMS is one of only 7 physical therapy schools that is an academic department of a medical school. Last year, we fulfilled our 20-year goal as we signed a collaboration agreement allowing us to join the other medical school clinical departments in having full privileges to participate in the tripartite Education, Research and Clinical Practice missions of the academic medical center by signing an agreement with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare (NMHC, aka “Northwestern Medicine”).

Our historic comprehensive collaboration agreements with Shirley Ryan AbilityLab and NMHC are allowing us to partner to advance physical therapy practice with the nation’s top-ranked rehabilitation hospital as well as the nationally ranked Northwestern Medicine academic medical center. We are also endeavoring to advance academic physical therapy by collaborating with other research-intensive physical therapy programs. At this year’s ELC meeting in Oakland, California, a group of 15 research-intensive programs met and agreed to work together to create a consortium that will foster new knowledge generation in physical therapy, sharing of research priorities, pooling of resources, and coordination of efforts to accelerate the translation of research from bench to bedside.

We believe NUPTHMS’s academic-clinical partnerships and our collaborations with other research intensive physical therapy programs provide us with the means to continue to excel as one of the top physical therapy schools in the U.S., and that this academic-medical center model of physical therapy education, research, and practice will allow us all to play a major role in creating and leading science-underpinned rehabilitation interventions into the future.

[Explore more about our clinical partners.](#)

-EDUCATION-

- Ranked #4 PT Program by USN&WR.
- 5 Post-Professional Residency & Fellowship Programs.
- PhD in Systems Neuroscience.
- DPT/PhD dual degree in Engineering.
- DPT/MPH dual degree in Public Health.
- Full department status within the Medical School.
- We are a Nationally, regionally, & locally awarded Department & Faculty.
- STRIDE student-faculty advising program.
- ROADMAP student-alumni formal mentorship program.
- ‘Alumni and Student Network’ brings our community together.
- 75 local clinicians as “associated faculty”.

-RESEARCH-

- 1 new R01 grant, 2 new R21 grants, and 1 new R03 grant in 2024.
- \$4,398,384 in grant funding (NUPTHMS PIs only)
- 271 unique scholarly products for 2024.
- 90 accepted peer-reviewed publications for NUPTHMS in 2024.
- 39 university & clinical research collaboration sites.
- 2 PhD Dissertation Defenses.
- NU-CHAPTER Labs celebrates two years since its formation

-CLINICAL PRACTICE-

Formal comprehensive clinical partnerships for research, education, and clinical practice.

PTHMS collaboration agreements with Shirley Ryan AbilityLab (2013) and the 11-hospital Northwestern Medicine health system (2023) create an academic medical center culture rich in clinical, research, and educational opportunities for our faculty, students, researchers, residents, and fellows. PTHMS faculty now have clinical practice opportunities throughout the NM and SRA lab systems. Our neurologic, orthopaedic, and acute care residencies, and our advanced orthopaedic fellowship enrich and advance physical therapy practice throughout the academic medical center. Our new Pelvic Health Residency with SRA lab and NM will open in 2025. By 2026 every PTHMS DPT student will have a clinical experience in a Northwestern Medicine hospital or clinic. Mike Ellis, PT, DPT in his new role as Director of Translational Rehabilitation Research will be working with Northwestern Medicine clinical venues to create a structure and culture to foster collaborative projects involving researchers, clinicians, educators, residents, and fellows.



GEARING UP FOR OUR CENTENNIAL!

Northwestern Physical Therapy & Human Movement Sciences, established in 1927 as the nation's oldest physical therapy school, remains at the forefront of innovation

in physical therapy. We pride ourselves on the innovations and great leaders and clinicians who have emerged from our school over nine decades. We're excited to reach this milestone in the 2027-2028 academic calendar year, filled with celebrations and even more accomplishments!

-AWARDS-

EMILY BECKER, PT, MS, EdD

Named President of the Academy of Leadership and Innovation within the American Physical Therapy Association

DAWN BROWN, PT, DPT, EdD

Physical Therapy Learning Institute's 2024 Education Influencer

CAROLINA CARMONA, PT, DPT

John X. Thomas, Jr.
Best Teachers of Feinberg Award

LOIS HEDMAN, PT, DSCPT, MS

John X. Thomas, Jr.
Lifetime Achievement Award

JENNIFER KAHN, PT, DPT

2024 Excellence in Neurologic Education Award

THERESA MOULTON, PT, DPT, PhD

Incoming President of the American Academy for CP & Developmental Medicine (AAPDM). Term starts at the Annual Meeting in October 2025.

6 NUPTHMS Faculty elected to Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine's Feinberg Academy of Medical Educators (FAME).

3 NUPTHMS Students elected to the IPTA Student SIG Executive Committee.

